

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 BIB-01 NEAE-00 /084 W

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P R 021218Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4172

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PLO, UR, HU, CZ

SUBJECT: BEIRUT REPORTING ON PLO/SOVIET TALKS

REF: BEIRUT 5613 (NOTAL)

1. LEADING DAILY AN NAHAR CARRIED STORY MAY 1 (LOCAL HOLIDAY) THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON "PRACTICAL AND SPECIFIC" STEPS TO INSURE "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" DURING SEVEN-HOUR SESSION APRIL 30 BETWEEN 'ARAFAT AND FONMIN GROMYKO. NAHAR INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT USSR WILL ATTEMPT PRESSURE USG TO ISSUE JOINT INVITATION TO PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. PAPER ALSO EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT USSR HAS AGREED SEEK AMENDMENT OF SC RES. 242, WHICH PLO HAS REPEATEDLY INSISTED DOES NOT PROVIDE SATISFACTORY FRAME
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OF REFERENCE FOR ITS ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA.

2. PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY (Wafa) HAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED DISPATCH DATED MOSCOW ANNOUNCING THAT 'ARAFAT HAD AGREED TO EXTEND HIS MOSCOW VISIT UNTIL MAY 4 (HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INTENDED TO DEPART MAY 1) "AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIET SIDE AND IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF TALKS." Wafa CLAIMED 'ARAFAT HAD SUBMITTED "SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE PROPOSALS" ON ALL ISSUES ARISING IN MOSCOW TALKS, AND IT EMPHASIZED, DOUBTLESS FOR ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CONSUMPTION, THAT ALL PLO PROPOSALS WERE "IN HARMONY WITH OBJECTIVES OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL STRUGGLE AND RESOLUTIONS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (I.E., JUNE 1974 CAIRO SESSION)."

3. COMMENT: DESPITE NAHAR'S ROSY PICTURE OF PLO-SOVIET TALKS, REACTION AMONG LOCAL PALESTINIANS NOT THAT GOOD. THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PLO AND SOVIET PUBLIC POSITIONS RE RECOGNITION OF AN COEXISTENCE WITH ISRAEL ARE AT HEART OF CURRENT CONSULTATIONS, AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION THAT GAP WITH MOSCOW WILL NOT RPT NOT BE BRIDGED. PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST WHO WRITES FOR AL MUHARRIR, WHICH HAS EXCELLENT FEDAYEEN CONNECTIONS, WAS OVERHEARD EVENING MAY 1 CHARACTERIZING SOVIET ATTITUDE IN CURRENT TALKS AS "PRESSURE, PRESSURE, PRESSURE." FINALLY, 'ARAFAT'S EXTENSION OF VISIT IS BEING VIEWED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL OBSERVERS AS INDICATION THAT 'ARAFAT MAY BE ENCOUNTERING SOME ROUGH SLEDDING WITH GROMYKO AND OTHER SOV LEADERS.

4. WE HAVE HEARD THAT 'ARAFAT PLANS VISIT BOTH CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY ON HIS WAY BACK TO MIDDLE EAST FROM MOSCOW.
GODLEY

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